

Remarks

The Restriction Requirement, which was mailed on October 8, 2003, has been made final. In view of the finality of the Examiner's action in this matter, Applicants have canceled non-elected claims 1 – 5, without prejudice.

Claims 6 – 8 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,494,061 in view of Bartholomew (U.S. Patent No. 1,959,328). This rejection is now deemed to be moot in view of the cancellations of claims 6 – 8, without prejudice.

Claims 6 – 8 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartholomew (U.S. Patent No. 1,959,328). This rejection is also deemed to be moot in view of the cancellations of claims 6 – 8, without prejudice.

Claims 9 – 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim with an indication that the subject matter of these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of this indication of allowable subject matter, claim 9 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 6, its base claim, there being no intervening claims in the dependency of claim 9.

The objection to the format of claims 10 – 14, as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is believed to have been overcome by the amendment to claim 9, the common parent claim to claims 10 – 14, to put claim 9 in independent form.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9 – 14 are now allowable in scope and are unobjectionable in format, and reconsideration and allowance of each of such claims are, therefore, respectfully requested.

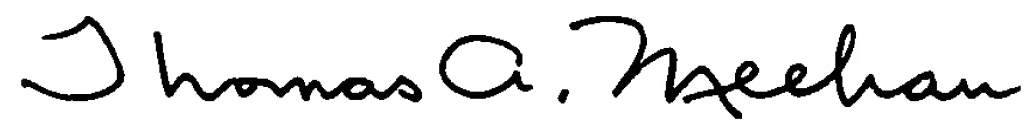
Minor amendments of an editorial nature have been made to the specification at page 1, line 6, page 8, line 23, and page 14, line 3. Each of these requested amendments is believed to be proper and objectionable.

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have responded in a fully satisfactory manner to all matters at issue in this application, and that this

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application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application at an early date are, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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